

Remarks

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Examiner's Action mailed August 21, 2006 (an Advisory Action), which maintains that the subject matter of claims 14-18 is allowable over the prior art of record. This Amendment accompanies a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and comments set forth below.

By the foregoing amendments, the subject matter of depending claims 11-12 is incorporated into independent claim 10; the dependency of claim 13 is revised to depend from claim 10; and an obvious missing word was added to claim 14. In addition, claim 10 is revised to positively recite that the intermediate conveyor is an endless conveyor, method claims 1-9 and apparatus claims 11-12 are canceled without prejudice to filing a divisional or continuation application to prosecute those claims. Accordingly, claims 10 and 13-19 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-13 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,678,813 to Osako for the reasons set forth in paragraph 3 spanning pages 3-4 of the Action. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Osako is directed to a book-binding method for a saddle-stitched bound book. It is the Examiner's position that Figure 9 of Osako discloses three separate bookbinding lines B, D and E. Osaka does not disclose the recited "endless intermediate conveyor" as reference character 124a of Osako is described as transfer guiding means 124a that guides front-saddle-stitched book b' prepared by bookbinding line B into a feeder 124 (column 10, lines 5-9 of Osako). Thus, the transfer guiding means of Osako does not circulate and is not an endless conveyor (that revolves) as recited in claim 10.

Furthermore, the feeder 124 and transfer guide means of Osako are not positioned **in alignment with** a second conveying section. To the contrary, Osako discloses a guide means positioned perpendicularly above the conveying chain mechanism 117. Guide means 124 may cause books to fall into a feeder bin above the conveying chain mechanism 117, but the guide means is not in alignment with the second conveying section. Instead, the guide means extends perpendicularly away from the conveying chain mechanism and is separated by the feeder bin. There is no disclosure that the transfer guide means of Osako is **an endless** conveyor that circulates; instead, Osako expressly discloses that the transfer means guide books b' to a feeder and is shown as a single track. That is, Osaka discloses transfer guide means sending books to a feeder and not the recited **endless** or circulating intermediate conveyor in alignment with a second conveying section. This is not the claimed invention.

In order to clarify that the present invention set forth in independent claim 10 is directed to an apparatus for conveying a stitched printed product and depositing the conveyed printed product in an open state onto a protective signature conveyed by the recited second conveying section, the feeder of claim 12 and the adhesive applicator of claim 11 were added to independent claim 10. As argued above, Osako fails to disclose the recited “endless intermediate conveyor” that picks up the printed product from a removal region of the first conveying section, transports the printing product and then deposits the printed product in an opened state onto the protective signature conveyed by the second conveying section. Nowhere does Osako disclose an “endless intermediate conveyor” that is in alignment with the second conveying section as recited in claim 10. Transfer guide means 124a sends books b' of Osako into a feeder bin 124. Consequently,

Osako cannot anticipate claims 10, 13 and 19 of the present application because it fails to disclose each and every recited features of the claims. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment places the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this application be passed to issuance indicating that claims 10 and 13-19 are allowed over the prior art of record.

Should the Examiner believe that a conference would advance the prosecution of this application, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned counsel to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,



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